(b) During the past two months, there have been agitations by some Unions. The Badli workers are agitating and demanding idle wages on par with the permanent workers.

(c) On the basis of a unit wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Textile Mills closed in Assam

1857. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile mills lying closed in Assam, mill-wise;

(b) the production capacity of these mills which is being lost everyday; and

(c) the effective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) As on 30.9.98, 4 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were lying closed in the State of Assam. The names of the mills and the capacity affected are given below:

Name of the mill	Capacity Affected (spindles)
Assam Coop. Spg. Mills	7680
Assam Polvtex	16184
Sahid Kusal Kanwar Sutakal Ltd.	11040
Assam Syntex Ltd.	17280

(c) Among other measures taken by the Government to tackle the problems of industrial sickness in general (including textiles) was the establishment of a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Recently the Government have set up an Expert Committee under "the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam, a former Secretary (Textiles) inter-alia, to have a fresh look at the existing Textile Policy. One of the terms of references of the said Committee is to review the measures taken so far for tackling sickness in the textile industry and to make suggestions for improving the economic viability of the textile industry as also to identify steps which would be necessary to prevent and tackle sickness in the industry, including the need for structural adjustments through re-deployment of labour and capital.

In addition, a Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme is being proposed to be launched to encourage investment in new technology. The Scheme intends to give accent to the post spinning sub sectors (weaving, processing and garments) to be financed by the financial institutions with the Government extending an interest incentive of 5 percentage points. Also, a Cotton Technology Mission has been proposed for cotton development aiming to cover in a coordinated fashion different areas like increasing productivity, improving research, marketing and post harvest activities.

Discontinuation of Janata Cloth Scheme

1858. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a prop osal to discontinue the Janata Cloth Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such decision;

(c) whether any other alternative scheme is proposed to be introduced to provide cloth to the people below the poverty line at reasonable prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) A Committee constituted in the year 1991, to review the Janata Cloth Scheme